









THE  
MAGAZINE OF HISTORY  
WITH  
NOTES AND QUERIES

Extra Number—No. 11

COMPRISING  
THE JOURNAL OF THE SIEGE OF PENOBCOT  
*John Calef, M. D.*  
TO WHICH IS ADDED

CAPTAIN HENRY MOWAT'S "RELATION," AND BIOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTES. EDITED BY NATHAN GOOLD, LIBRARIAN OF THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

AND  
A NARRATIVE OF A LIGHT COMPANY SOLDIER'S SERVICE IN THE 41ST FOOT, 1807-1814.

*Shadrach Byfield*

WILLIAM ABBATT

141 EAST 25TH STREET,

..

NEW YORK

1910

COPYRIGHT, 1910, BY WILLIAM ABBATT

E173

M24

no. 11-12



NO. 11-12  
AMERICAN

*This reproduction of the original map  
in the Lenox Library, New York,  
is about one-quarter size.*



CHART

OF  
PENOBSCOT RIVER.

EXPLANATION.

A. Indian Island	M. Apinis River
B. Agonquidow Point	N. Moose River
C. Long Island Head	O. Moose River
D. Cudjoe	P. North River
E. Rock Island	Q. Lake of Seven Islands
F. Agonquidow Island	R. Moose River
G. Deer Harbor	S. Moose River
H. French Point	T. Moose River
I. French	U. Moose River
J. Moose River	V. Moose River
K. Moose River	W. Moose River
L. Moose River	X. Moose River

X. Moose River is first of Name on the Banks of Moose River



His Royal Highness  
The Prince of Wales  
and George Grenville  
One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State &c.  
His CHART of PENOBSCOT.  
Representing the Situation of about 700 of His Majesty's Troops  
under the Command of

Commanded by Brig Gen Lovell,  
and Seventeen Vessels of War Commanded by Commodore Salmon Hall,  
most honorably Franchised  
by His Lordships  
most Excellent humble Servant

John Cuff

Agent for the Inhabitants of the District of Pinetown.

#### EXPLANATION.

A. A few days - The N.W. and S.E. Buoys were given when the River appeared  
on the Bay -

B. Red Buoys on the Banks of King George -

C. Red Beacons -

D. Buoy Buoys where three Poles of Cane were inserted in the  
River bank by the Rebels to mark the Meeting they  
had taken by the Banks of the King George -

E. The King George, Albany, North and Nauska as their last stations and on  
Top of each were Red Buoys as their Deposes ad aend -

F. Red Buoy on Nauska Island copied on the King George at their second station -

G. Red Pole -

H. Half Moon Buoy at Bank Mouth of King George, afterwards moved near the Fort

I. Common Buoy and Buoy -

K. Second station of the King George -

L. Third station of the King George -

M. Red Buoy of 18 Pounds copied against the King George at their third station -

N. Red Buoy as found -

O. Red Buoy as found -

P. Red Buoy and Line abeard -

Q. King Pole where the Red Buoy was driven by the Rebels -

R. Field Pole brought against the Common anchor at the Rebels -

S. Encampment of the Rebels before the Rebels appeared -

T. Hm the Rebels landed -

U. Jol. Poles -

V. Jol. Poles -

W. Jol. Poles -

X. Bank Buoy -

Y. Jol. Buoy -

Z. Jol. Buoy -

1. Deep Buoy -

2. Shallow Buoy -

3. Shallow Buoy -

Scale of One Mile.

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900

Commanded by Nels and Majol Cane

As near a facsimile of the original as possible.

T H E  
SIEGE O F *PENOBSBOT*  
B Y T H E  
R E B E L S ;  
C O N T A I N I N G A  
J O U R N A L o f t h e P R O C E E D I N G S  
O F

His MAJESTY's FORCES detached from the 74th and 82d REGIMENTS, confiscting of about 700 Rank and File, under the Command of Brigadier-General FRANCIS M'LEAN,

A N D O F

THREE of His MAJESTY's SLOOPS of WAR, of 16 Guns each, under the Command of Captain HENRY MOWAT, Senior Officer;

WHEN BESIEGED BY

THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED (Rebel) Land Forces, under the Command of Brigadier-General *Solomon Lovell*,

A N D

SEVENTEEN Rebel Ships and Vessels of War, under the Command of *G. Saltonstall*, Commodore.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED

A PROCLAMATION issued June 15, 1779, by General M'LEAN and Captain BARCLAY to the Inhabitants;

A L S O

Brigadier-General *Lovell's* PROCLAMATION to the Inhabitants; and his LETTER to Commodore *Saltonstall*, found on board the Rebel Ship *Hunter*;

TOGETHER WITH

The Names, Force, and Commanders, of the Rebel Ships destroyed in PENOBSBOT BAY and RIVER, *August 14 and 15, 1779.*

WITH

A CHART of the Peninsula of MAJABIGWADUCE, and of PENOBSBOT River.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED

A POSTSCRIPT, wherein a short Account of the Country of PENOBSBOT is given.

---

By *J. C. Eq.* a Volunteer.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for G. K E A R S L E Y, in Fleet-Street, and A S H B Y and N E E L E ,  
(late S P I L S B U R Y ' S ) in Russel-Court, Covent-Garden.

M,DCC,LXXXI.

---

NEW YORK

Reprinted

WILLIAM ABBATT

1910

(Being Extra No. 11 of THE MAGAZINE OF HISTORY WITH NOTES AND QUERIES.)





T H E  
S I E G E   O F   *P E N O B S C O T*;  
CONTAINING A  
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
O F  
HIS MAJESTY's Forces against the REBELS in *July*, 1779:  
A N D  
A POSTSCRIPT, giving some Account of the Country,  
&c. &c.





## EDITOR'S PREFACE

THE "Siege of Penobscot," so called, was the attempt of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay to dislodge the British from the peninsula of Majabagaduce,\* where the present town of Castine, Maine, now is, a most historic locality. The British landed June 17, 1779, and began work toward the building of a fort which, at first, was called Fort Castine and later Fort George, for the King.

It had been decided to establish there a military post where ships could bring their prizes and where the Loyalists of New England could have a place of refuge. The Loyalists availed themselves of this privilege until the place became a considerable village. The British idea was that if the Colonists secured their independence the boundary line between the United States and Canada would not be east of the Penobscot, and in that event they would have a fort already built, at the head of Penobscot Bay, in a very advantageous situation. The territory between the Penobscot and St. Croix rivers would become a new province, of which Castine would be the capital.

The attempt to dislodge the British by the Massachusetts Bay Colony was the largest of our Revolutionary naval undertakings, but was a deplorable failure. It is said to have cost the Colony £1,739,174: 11.4 d. when their finances were at a very low ebb. The Americans were seized with a panic, their ships destroyed and the people were disheartened. The cause of the failure was the conduct of Saltonstall, the commander of the fleet, and the unpreparedness of the expedition. The land forces were hastily

\* This name was spelled in several ways.

gathered without regard to their *personnel*. The navy was little better. Commodore Saltonstall refused to co-operate with the land forces at the proper time. General Lovell was a brave officer of good reputation, but had not had the necessary experience in actual warfare. General Wadsworth, the second in command was the best officer of the expedition, and his conduct during the whole affair received the approbation of the Committee of Investigation. The general officers were:

Commander in Chief, Brigadier General Solomon Lovell, of Weymouth, Mass.; Second in authority, Brigadier General Peleg Wadsworth, of Duxbury, Mass., afterwards of Portland, Maine. He was the grandfather of the poet H. W. Longfellow. Commander of the Fleet, Commodore Dudley Saltonstall, of New Haven, Conn.

When the attack was made the fort was not half built and the British commander, McLean, expected to surrender to save the lives of his soldiers and it is said he stood by the halyards ready to lower his flag at the proper moment, but because of the conduct of Saltonstall it was not necessary. The expedition was called by the people of Maine, "The Bagaduce Expedition," and ever afterwards was a subject of discussion among them. Maine furnished most of the soldiers and something of the navy. Another expedition was proposed in 1780, but was abandoned by the advice of Washington. The British withdrew from Fort George before January, 1784, and it was the last fort from which the King's forces were embarked, at the end of the war. Most of the Loyalists went to St. Andrews, N. B., where land had been granted them and where sixty or seventy houses were erected for their occupancy. They took down several houses at Castine and re-erected them at St. Andrews.

NATHAN GOOLD.

PORLAND, ME.

## PERSONAL NOTES

DR. JOHN CALEF

This journal was identified as the work of Dr. John Calef by his name appearing on the map. He had taken part in the siege of Louisburg and it is said he left a manuscript account of that event which has been lost. He was an important man in his time.

Dr. Calef, which name was also spelled Calfe, Calf, Caleff and Kaloph, was born in Ipswich, Mass., Aug. 30, 1726, the son of Robert and Margaret (Staniford) Calef. His grandparents were Dr. Joseph and Mary (Ayer) Calef of Ipswich, who were married in Boston, May 2, 1693. The parents of Dr. Joseph were Robert and Mary Calef of Roxbury, Mass. Robert Calef was the author of "More Wonders of the Invisible World," which antagonized Cotton and Increase Mather, about 1692. It was publicly burned on the campus of Harvard College by the orders of the latter, who was then president of the college.

In 1755, the Governor ordered Dr. Calef to Fort Halifax,\* on the Kennebec River, now in the town of Winslow, Maine, to attend the sick. He found his services much needed by the garrison and remained about two months. He also went there again in 1772. He engaged, as surgeon, in Colonel Ichabod Plaisted's regiment Feb. 18, 1756, to go to Crown Point, and was discharged Jan. 19, 1757, remaining at the Albany hospital. He served in the Massachusetts General Court before the Revolutionary War, but remained loyal to the King and became obnoxious to the Colonists. He was declared by them a traitor, and a price was set upon his head. By the energy of his wife, he escaped capture and went to St. Andrews, N. B.

\* Fort Halifax was at the junction of the Kennebec and Sebasticook rivers in the present town of Winslow, Maine. It was built by Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts in 1755, and was named for the Duke of Halifax. A full history of the Fort by Hon. William Goold, was published in the *Collections* of the Maine Historical Society, First Series, Vol. 8, page 199.

Dr. Calef was active in the Penobscot expedition and was Commissary of the inhabitants in the County of Lincoln, Maine. He was the surgeon at Fort George and acted as chaplain. In 1780, he went to England as an agent of the Penobscot Loyalists. The scheme was that the country between the Saco and the St. Croix Rivers was to be erected into a new province to be called "New Ireland." Thomas Oliver was to be governor, Daniel Leonard, chief justice, and Dr. Calef the clerk of the council at a salary of £50. The land was to be granted to the Loyalists in large tracts to the most meritorious with small grants to the poorest. It was to be a landed country. The English church was to be the established religion. This scheme was approved of by the King and his Cabinet, but was unsuccessful. Dr. Calef remained in England two years, when he revived the effort, but it received its death blow from a decision of the Attorney General of England that it violated the sacredness of the chartered rights of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and he was informed that it could not be done as "the pressure is too strong."

In 1784, Dr. Calef was one of the grantees of St. Andrews, N. B., and was the first physician to settle there, where he built a house. After the war he was surgeon of the general hospital at St. John, N. B., and was attached to the garrison, then stationed at Fort Howe. After October, 1800, he returned to St. Andrews where he resided until his death, which occurred Oct. 23, 1812, at the age of 86 years.

Dr. Calef married, first, Margaret Rogers, daughter of Rev. Nathaniel and Mary (Leverett) Rogers of Ipswich, who died March 27, 1751; second, Jan. 18, 1753, Dorothy Jewett, daughter of Rev. Jedidiah and Elizabeth (Dummer) Jewett, both of Rowley, Mass. Children by first wife were:

1. Margaret, born Oct. 15, 1748; married Oct. 14, 1767, Dr. Daniel Scott of Boston.

2. Mary, bapt. March, 1750; married Capt. John Dutch of Ipswich.

By second marriage:

3. John, born Nov. 2, 1753; drowned Feb. 19, 1782.
4. Jedidiah, born Sept. 22, 1755; died March 10, 1778.
5. Elizabeth, born Oct. 25, 1757; died Sept. 7, 1771.
6. Daughter, still-born May 1, 1759.
7. Robert, born Nov. 16, 1760.
8. Dorothy, born Nov. 16, 1762.
9. Sarah, born June 27, 1764; died in St. Andrews, N. B., March 25, 1854, unm.
10. Susanna, born Feb. 7, 1766.
11. A son still-born Jan., 1768.
12. Mehitable, born Sept. 13, 1768; married Capt. David Mowat Nov. 14, 1786, and died at St. Andrews, N. B., Dec. 25, 1860, aged 92 years.
13. Martha, born May 22, 1770; died Sept. 23, 1771.
14. Samuel, born July 20, 1772; alive at 17.
15. Daughter, still-born, April 12, 1775.
16. Daughter, still-born, Aug. 22, 1776.
17. Jedidiah Jewett, born Jan. 22, 1778.

An extended sketch of the Caleff family by David Russell Jack, was published in *Acadiensis*, Vol. 7, p. 261-273, July, 1907, which enabled the writer to verify these facts he had already obtained from other sources.

Dr. John Calef spelled his name with one f, on the map and in his signature to five letters examined by the writer, although the family seemed to have added another f later.

## GENERAL FRANCIS MCLEAN

Brigadier General Francis McLean, also called a Major-General, whose name was properly spelled MacLean, was the son of Captain William, who was the grandson of Lachlan, the first of the family of Blaich and second of John Crubach, eighth MacLean of Ardgour. As soon as he was able to carry arms Francis obtained a commission in the same regiment with his father, a regiment of Scottish troops maintained in the Dutch service. He was at the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom in 1747, when the French, after a siege of two months, took the place by storm. "Lieutenants Francis and Allan MacLean (third son of Torloisk) of the Scotch brigade were taken prisoners and carried before General Löwendahl, who thus addressed them: 'Gentlemen, consider yourself on parole. If all had conducted themselves as you and your brave corps have done, I should not now be master of Bergen-op-Zoom.'" He was detained prisoner in France for some time; and on his release was promoted to a captaincy and entered the Forty-second Royal Highlanders. At the capture of Gaudaloupe, Francis was severely wounded, but owing to his gallant conduct was promoted to the rank of major and appointed Governor of the island of Marie Galante. He served in Canada under Wolfe but returned to Great Britain and embarked with the expedition for reducing the island of Belleisle on the coast of France. Here he had his right arm shattered and was taken prisoner. On being exchanged, his bravery was rewarded by promotion to the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 82d. In 1762, he was sent to aid the Portuguese against the combined attack of France and Spain. He was made commander of Almeida, a fortified town on the Spanish frontier, which command he held for several years and was nominated to the government of Estremadura and the City of Lisbon. On his leaving Portugal in 1778, the king presented him with a handsomely mounted sword, and the queen gave him a valuable diamond ring. On his return to England he was dispatched to America and appointed to the government of Halifax. He re-paired with the army in June, 1779, to Penobscot Bay and proceeded to erect defences. His regiment had arrived at Halifax from England in 1778. After the completion of Fort George, McLean and his regiment returned to Halifax where he died, unmarried, May 4, 1781, in his 64th year and was buried two days later. General McLean was a good officer and left a good impression on those with whom he came in contact on the Penobscot.

## GENERAL SOLOMON LOVELL

General Solomon Lovell was born in Abington, Mass., June 1, 1732, and married (1) Jan. 19, 1758, Lydia, daughter of John and Sarah (Hunt) Holbrook, who was born in Weymouth, Mass., Sept. 3, 1734, and died May 21, 1761. She had two children. He married (2) in May, 1762, Hannah, daughter of James and Hannah (Reed) Pittey, born Dec. 8, 1730, and died July 8, 1795. She had seven children. General Lovell was the son of David and Mary (Torrey) Lovell, and a descendant of Robert Lovell who went to Weymouth in 1635. His father was a graduate of Harvard in 1725.

Solomon Lovell was from youth in some official capacity of his town, and became actively engaged in the cause of the Colonies during the Revolution, and was promoted through the different grades to a brigadier-general. He commanded the military division of which Boston was the center. He served under Gen. John Sullivan in Rhode Island and commanded the land forces in the Penobscot Expedition of 1779, and was commended for his services. He died Sept. 9, 1801, aged 69 years. It has been said of him that "he was honest, brave and competent, faithful in all the relations of life, carrying the respect and esteem of all with whom it was his privilege to associate."

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

History of Castine, Maine, Wheeler.

History of Maine, Williamson.

Weymouth, Massachusetts, Historical Society's *Collection*, Vol. II.

Maine Historical Society's *Collections*.

History of Col. Jonathan Mitchell's Cumberland County Regt. 1779, by  
Nathan Goold.

## A JOURNAL

**O**N the 17th day of June, 1779, Brigadier-General Francis McLean landed at Majabidwaduce (Penobscot), with about 700 of his Majesty's forces, composed of detachments from the 74th\* and 82d\*\* regiments, to take post in the eastern country of New England. The time from this day to the 17th of July was taken up in clearing a spot to erect a fort and building the same, and a battery near the shore, with store-houses, etc.

**July 18.** Intelligence was received that a fleet and army were preparing at Boston to besiege Penobscot, of which but little notice was taken. Capt. Henry Mowat, of his Majesty's sloop *Albany*, having been many years on the American station and well acquainted with the disposition of the inhabitants, and of the importance of the country of Penobscot to the Americans for fire-wood, lumber, masts, cod and river fish, gave credit to the information, and ordered the three sloops of war into the best situation to defend the harbour, annoy the Enemy and co-operate with the land forces.

**July 19.** The intelligence of yesterday gains credit; whereupon the General, in order to make the proper dispositions for an

\* The 74th Foot, "The Argyle Highlanders," was raised by the Duke of Hamilton and served in America four years, under John Campbell. Milltown, New Brunswick, and a tract of good farming land on the Digdequash, were granted to the officers and men of this regiment who had been in the garrison on the Penobscot.

\*\* The 82nd Foot, "The Hamilton Regiment," served in America four years and was under Sir William Erskine in 1779. After the completion of Fort George, at Castine, this regiment returned to Halifax with General McLean. Sir John Moore, made famous by Wolfe's poem on his burial in 1809, was then but eighteen, a lieutenant, as was Sir James Craig, who became the Governor General of Canada.

immediate defence, desists for the present from his purpose of proceeding in a regular way with the fort; and prepares to fortify in a manner more expeditious and better suited to the present emergency; in doing which he shows the utmost vigilance and activity, giving every where the necessary directions, visiting incessantly by night and day the different parts of the works, and thus by his example animating his men to proceed, regardless of fatigue, with vigour and alacrity in their operations. The Inspector of the inhabitants begs leave of the General to call in the people to assist in carrying on the works; which being granted, about a hundred inhabitants came in (with their Captain \* at their head) as volunteers; and having worked three days gratis, cleared the land of wood in the front of the fort, to the satisfaction of the General, who returned them his thanks.

*July 20.* All hands busy at work, preparing to receive the enemy. At noon Capt. Mowat, having made every preparation in his power to secure the harbour, &c., sent 180 men on shore from the ships of war, to work on the fort.

*July 21.* Intelligence is received that a fleet of near 40 sail of vessel had sailed from Boston eastward. All hands at work day and night.

*July 22.* Nothing remarkable. All hands at work day and night. This evening a spy brought an account that 40 sail of vessel put into Townsend Harbour yesterday.

*July 23.* Every person busily employed. The Inspector calls a great number of inhabitants to work, who are employed in felling trees, raising an abatis round the fort, building platforms for the guns, &c. Saw three sail in the offing. Several canoes from the islands below come to advise the General of

\*John Perkins.

a large number of vessels being becalmed off St. George's Island,\* standing with their heads to the eastward. All doubt of an attack from the Enemy is now vanished.

*July 24.* At 4 P. M. discovered a large fleet standing up the bay, which from various circumstances we believed to be the armament that, according to intelligence received, had been fitted out at Boston to besiege this place. On this account Capt. Mowat thought proper to detain the *North* and *Nautilus* sloops, which had been ordered for other service. At five, by signal from the *Albany*, the seamen who for some days past had been at work raising the S. E. bastion of the fort, repaired on board their respective ships (which were immediately cleared for action) and, as had been usual, were every evening exercised at their quarters. The *Albany*, *North* and *Nautilus* had dropped down the harbour and moored in a well-formed and close line of battle across the entrance, immediately within the rocks on Bagwaduce point and the point of *Nautilus* or Cross Island; giving a berth, out of the line of fire, to three transports stationed and prepared to slip and run foul of the Enemy's ships, should they attempt to enter the harbour. The troops were encamped about half a mile from the works; the well bastion of which was not yet begun, nor the Seamen's\*\* quite finished; but on the appearance of the Enemy the works

\* The St. George Islands are off the mouth of St. Georges River and are a part of the town of St. George, Maine. They were originally a part of the Plantation of St. George, then Cushing, and in 1903 the town of St. George was incorporated. Penobscot Harbor, referred to by Rosier, in 1605, is at Allen's Island and here was the first attempt by Europeans to cultivate the soil of Maine. Captain George Weymouth erected a cross on Allen's Island in 1605, and the Maine Historical Society erected a granite one in 1905 to commemorate the event. The town of St. George is thirteen miles south of Rockland.

\*\* So called as being the work of the seamen only under the direction of Lieut. William Brooke, of his Majesty's ship *North*.

were put in a more defensible state, some cannon were mounted, and the little army was in garrison early the next morning. Guard-boats, during the night, watched the motions of the Enemy, who were discovered to have come to an anchor about three or four leagues off, in the narrows of Penobscot.

*July 25.* At 10 A. M. a brig appeared at some distance from the harbour's mouth, and after reconnoitering the situation of the men of war, stood back into the fleet. At noon the Enemy's fleet, consisting of 37 sail of ships, brigs and transports, arrived in the bay of the harbour; the transports proceeded about half a mile up Penobscot river, and came to an anchor, while the armed ships and brigs stood off and on and a boat from each ship repaired on board their flagship, which had thrown out a signal for that purpose.

At 3 P. M., nine ships, forming into three divisions, stood towards the King's ships and, as they advanced in the line, hove-to, and engaged. A very brisk cannonade continued four glasses\*, when the Enemy bore up, and came to an anchor in the bay without. The King's ships suffered only in their rigging. The fire of the Enemy was random and irregular, and their manoeuvres, as to backing and filling, bespoke confusion, particularly in the first division, which scarcely got from the line of fire when the second began to engage. The second and third divisions appeared to have but one object in view, that of cutting the springs of the men of war, to swing them from the bearings of their broadsides, and thereby to afford their fleet an entrance into the harbour. During the cannonade with the shipping the Enemy made an attempt to land their troops on Bagwaduce, but were repulsed with some loss. On the retreat of the Enemy's troops and

\*A "glass" is a marine measure of time, equal to half an hour.

ships the garrison manned their works, and gave three cheers to the men-of-war, which were returned; and soon after the general and field-officers went down to the beach and also gave three cheers, which were returned by the ships.

Guard-boats and ships' companies during the night lay at their quarters.

*July 26.* At 10 A. M. the Enemy's ships got under weigh, and forming their divisions as yesterday, stood in and engaged the King's ships four glasses and a half. The damages sustained this day, also, were chiefly in the rigging at the extreme ends of the ships; and the fire of the Enemy appears again to be directed to the moorings; which attempt not proving successful, they bore up and anchored without. The Enemy again attempted to land their troops, but were driven back with some little loss. At 6 P. M. the Enemy, having stationed two brigs of 14 guns and one sloop of 12, on the east side of Nautilus Island, landed 200 men, and dislodging a party of 20 marines, took possession of four 4-pounders (two not mounted) and a small quantity of ammunition. At 9 P. M. it being found that the Enemy were very busy at work, and that they had landed some heavy artillery which they were getting up to the height of the island, and against which the men-of-war could not act in their present station, it was judged expedient to move them farther up the river. This was accordingly done, and the line formed as before: the transports moved up at the same time and anchored within the men-of-war. Guard-boats and the ships' companies, as usual, lying at their quarters.

*July 27.* Pretty quiet all this day. A few shot from some ships of the Enemy were aimed at the small battery on Majabig-waduce point, which were returned with a degree of success, one ship having been driven from her station. Observed the

Enemy very busy in erecting their battery on Nautilus Island. The garrison being much in want of cannon, some guns from the transports and from the off-side of the men-of-war, were landed, and being dragged by the seamen up to the fort, were disposed of for its use. At 3 P. M. a boat passing from the Enemy's ships to Nautilus island was sunk by a random shot from the fort. At 11 P. M. the guard-boats from the King's ships fell in and exchanged a few shots with the Enemy's.

*July 28.* At 3 A. M. under their ships' fire, the Enemy made good their landing on Majabigwaduce, and from their great superiority of numbers obliged the King's troops to retreat to the garrison. The Enemy's right pressed hard and in force upon the left of the King's troops, and attempted to cut off a party of men at the small battery; but the judgment and experience of a brave officer (Lieut. Caffrac, of the 82nd) counteracted their designs, and a retreat was effected with all the order and regularity necessary on such occasions. An attempt was made to demolish the guns, but the Enemy pushed their force to this ground so rapidly as not to suffer it. The possession of this battery afforded their ships a nearer station, on which they immediately seized. At 6 A. M. the Enemy opened their battery of 18 and 12 pounders from Nautilus island, and kept up the whole day a brisk and well-directed fire against the men-of-war. The King's ships cannonaded the battery for two glasses, and killed some men at it; but their light metal (six pounders) was found to be of little service, in comparison to the damages they sustained from such heavy metal brought against them. At 10 A. M., the *Warren*, of 32 guns, the Commodore's ship, and which had not as yet been in action, got under weigh and with three more ships shewed an appearance of entering the harbour, but hauled by the wind at a long distance. A brisk fire was kept up for half an hour, when the Enemy bore up and came to an anchor again with-

out. The *Warren* suffered considerably: her mainmast shot through in two places, the gammoning of her bowsprit cut to pieces, and her forestay shot away. Their confusion appeared to be great, and very nearly occasioned her getting on shore, so that they were obliged to let go an anchor and drop into the inlet between Majabigwaduce head and the point; where the ship lay this and the next day repairing her damages. The battery on the island still keeping up a heavy fire, and the ships' crews being exposed without the least benefit to the service, Capt. Mowat thought proper to move further up the harbour; which was done in the night and the line formed again; he being firmly resolved to dispute the harbour to the last extremity, as on that entirely depended the safety of the garrison, whose communication with the men-of-war was of the utmost importance. The dispositions on shore and on the water co-operating, and perfectly supporting each other, foiled the Enemy in their purposes; their troops were yet confined to a spot they could not move from, and while the harbour was secure their intentions of making approaches and investing the fort on all sides could by no means be put in execution. The present station of the men-of-war being such as rendered it impossible for the Enemy's ships to act but at particular periods, the marines (whose service in their peculiar line of duty was not immediately required on board) were ordered on shore to garrison duty, holding themselves in readiness to embark at a moment's notice, which with ease they could have effected in ten or fifteen minutes. Guard-boats as usual during the night.

*July 29.* At 6 A. M. the Enemy's ships weighed, and altering their positions, came to an anchor again. The State of the fortress requiring more cannon, some remaining off-side guns were landed from the men-of-war and dragged by the seamen up to the fortress for its use and that of the batteries; and

though the task to be performed, up a steep hill, over rocks and innumerable stumps of fallen trees, was laborious, yet their cheerfulness and zeal for the service surmounted every difficulty. P. M. the Enemy opened their batteries on the heights of Majabigwaduce, and kept up a warm and incessant fire against the fortress. The commanding ground of the Enemy's works and the short distance from the fortress, gave them some advantages with their grape as well as round shot which considerably damaged the storehouse in the garrison. Six pieces of cannon at the half-moon battery near Banks' house, and which belonged to the fortress, being now found necessary for its particular defence, were moved up to it and replaced with some ship's guns, under the direction of the gunner of the *Albany*, with a party of seamen Capt. Mowat having obtained intelligence that the Enemy, in despair of reducing the King's ships by the means of their own, or of getting possession of the harbour, had come to the resolution of joining their whole force in troops, marines and seamen, to storm the fortress the next morning at day-break, he judged it expedient to re-inforce the garrison with what seamen could be conveniently spared; and for this purpose, at the close of the evening, 140 men under the command of Lieut. Brooke, were sent in to garrison: part of them were immediately detached to re-inforce the troops on the out-line piquets, others manned the facing of their own bastion, while the remainder were busily employed in raising the cavaliers in the fort. In all these operations a brotherly affection appeared to unite the forces both by sea and land, and to direct their views all to one point, much to their credit and to the honour and benefit of the service. During the night the Enemy threw a number of shells into the fortress. At 10

P. M. a few shot between the Enemy's guard-boats and those from the King's ships.

*July 30.* The Enemy's ships preserve their disposition of yesterday. A brisk cannonade the whole day between the fortress and the Enemy's batteries on the height, and a number of shells thrown on both sides. The storehouse being apprehended to be in danger, some seamen were ordered to move the provisions out of the fortress into the ditch in its rear; as likewise a quantity at another storehouse. Guard-boats as usual.

*July 31.* At 2 A. M. the seamen and marines of the Enemy's fleet landed to the westward of the half-moon battery, and under cover of the night attacked the piquet, and by heavy platoon firings obliged them to retreat; but an alert re-inforcement of 50 men who were detached from the garrison, under the command of Lieut. Graham\* of the 82nd regiment, to the support of the piquet, drove the Enemy back with some loss in killed, wounded and taken, amounting on the whole, according to the best information, to about 100; the loss on the part of the King's forces, amounting to 13 killed, wounded and missing, fell chiefly on the seamen and marines, who composed the piquet this night. Lieut. Graham unfortunately received a dangerous wound in this action.

*August 1.* A slack fire on all sides. At 4 P. M. the Enemy's fleet getting under weigh, and the wind and tide serving them to enter the harbour, the embodied seamen were immediately called on board their respective ships; but it afterward appeared that the Enemy weighed only to form a closer line. Guard-boats as usual.

*August 2.* At 10 A. M. three of the Enemy's ships weighed and

\*John Graham, 82d Regiment.

came to an anchor nearer the harbour's mouth. Some cannonading between the fortress and the Enemy's batteries on the height. The outer magazine of the fortress being too much exposed, as lying in front and between the two fires, the marines were charged with the duty of bringing it to the magazine in the fortress; which was performed without any loss. P. M. a flag of truce from the Enemy, to treat for the exchange of a lieutenant of their fleet taken (wounded) at the half-moon battery on the 31st ult., but he had died of his wounds this morning. This day the Enemy posted some marksmen behind trees within musquet-shot of the fortress, and killed and wounded some centinels.

*August 3.* A slack fire the whole day. Perceived the Enemy busy in erecting a battery to the northward on the main above the King's ships. By a deserter from the Enemy's fleet we learn the force landed below the half-moon battery was 1000 seamen and marines, joined on their landing by 200 troops; that their intentions were to storm the fortress in the rear while the army from the heights made their attack in front; that it was not intended to storm the half-moon battery, but that they had mistaken their road in endeavoring to get in the rear of the fortress, when they received the first fire of the piquet, which led them to suppose their design had been discovered, and that they were ambushed. The army also, believing this to be the case, retreated to their ground. At 2 P. M. some seamen were sent to the fortress to assist in working the cannon, and another party for the defence of the Seamen's bastion, where a number of swivels from the men-of-war were planted, loaded with grape-shot, as a precaution against any attempt of the Enemy to storm the works. By request of the General a number of pikes were also brought from the King's ships to the fortress, and put in the hands

of the seamen, to prevent the Enemy from BOARDING their bastion. Guard-boats as usual.

*August 4.* The Enemy's ships retain their former situation. A smart cannonading between the fortress and the batteries on the heights, and a great number of shells thrown on both sides. Some ships' buckets for the use of the garrison brought on shore, in case the fascines at the well bastion, or store houses might be fired by the Enemy's shells. At 9 A. M. the Enemy opened their new battery near Wescoat's house, on the main, to the northward of the shipping. A brisk fire was kept up the whole day, and the men-of-war suffered much in their hulls and rigging; being too far from the battery for the light metal of the ships to produce any effect, their companies were ordered below. P. M. some skirmishing between the piquets, and trifling losses on both sides, on the Enemy's some Indians were killed.

During the day several accidents happened by cannon shot in the fort; among others the boatswain of the *Nautilus* was wounded by grape, and a seaman belonging to the *North* killed by an 18-pounder, at the guns they were stationed at in the fortress.

*August 5.* Cannonading the greatest part of the day between the fortress and the Enemy's batteries on the height, and from the north battery against the men-of-war, damaging their hulls and rigging. A. M. the remaining off-side guns from his Majesty's sloop *North* brought on shore, and mounted in the cavalier in the fortress. P. M. the garrison, being much in want of wads and match, was supplied from the men-of-war, as also with some six-pound shot, in which it is deficient. The north battery on the main having the command of the opposite shore on the peninsula of Majabigwaduce, where the Enemy, under its protection, might make lodgements in their

approaches toward the heights opposite the men-of-war and within shot of the fortress, and might thereby destroy the communication between them and the garrison, Capt. Mowat judged it necessary to erect a work in order to preserve this communication: a square redoubt was therefore marked out, to be manned with 50 seamen and to mount eight ships' guns *en barbette*. Guard-boats as usual during the night.

*August 6.* Slack fire between the fortress and batteries on the heights, and a few shot from the north battery against the men-of-war, cutting their rigging and dismounting a six-pounder on board the *North*. At 4 A. M. 70 seamen from the different ships, under the direction of Lieut. Brooke, of the *North*, sent on shore to raise the Seamen's redoubt on the height. P. M. a quantity of musquet-cartridges (of which the garrison was in want) brought on shore from the men-of-war. Guard-boats as usual. At 11 a few shot exchanged between the guard-boats.

*August 7.* The Enemy's ships preserve their positions. At 9 A. M. three of their brigs got under weigh and stood down the bay, supposed on the look-out. Some skirmishing between the piquets, with loss to the Enemy; Lieut. McNeil,\* of the 82d, and one private, wounded. Slack fire between the batteries and the fortress, and the north battery perfectly silent. At 4 P. M. discovered a boat crossing the S. E. bay to Hainey's plantation, where the Enemy kept a piquet. Lieut. Congalton,† of the *Nautilus* chaced with the boats from the men-of-war, and took her; but her crew, with those of a whale-boat and a gondola for transportating cannon, got safe on shore and joined the piquet. Capt. Farnham ‡ of the *Nau-*

\*Roderick McNeil.

†Andrew Congalton.

‡Thomas Farnham, Navy List, 1779.

*tilus*, with Lieut. Brooke and 50 seamen, joined by a party of soldiers from the garrison, landed and scoured the woods; the Enemy fled immediately, and so effectually concealed themselves as not to be discovered; some had left their arms ammunition and blankets, which were taken and brought on board.

Guard-boats as usual during the night.

By a deserter from the Enemy we learn that General Lovell had sent out small parties from his army, round the country, and brought in a great number of loyal inhabitants, who were sent on board their fleet and thrust down the holds heavily laden with irons, both on the hands and feet; their milch cows and other stock killed for the Enemy's use; all their moveables destroyed or plundered, and their wives and children left destitute of every support of life.

*August 8.* A constant cannonade the whole day between the fortress and the Enemy's batteries on the height, and from the north battery against the men-of-war, but returned only with a musquet. At 10 A. M. the Enemy brought a field-piece to play from the main on the seamen working at the redoubt; but the facing towards the Enemy being the first raised, for the purpose of covering the party, it was impossible to dislodge them; and a covering party daily attending from the garrison prevented a nearer approach on any other ground. This evening the redoubt was finished, and to the credit of the seamen, met with the approbation of the General and Engineers. Guard-boats as usual.

*August 9.* Cannonading as usual. At 9 A. M. a new battery, on the left of the Enemy's lines, was opened against the fortrees, and its chief fire, as well as the shells, directed against the N. W. bastion, raised with fascines only. P. M. discovered the Enemy had moved their piquet from Hainey's

plantation, and given up their design of carrying on a work for two 18-pounders against the men-of-war.

Guard-boats as usual during the night.

*August 10.* The Enemy's ships in the former position. A slack fire on all sides, and nothing material.

*August 11.* A smart cannonading from all the batteries, and some shot from the north battery well directed at the men-of-war.

*August 12.* Slack fire on all sides, and no material operations the whole day; but at 9 P. M. a large body of seamen and marines from the Enemy's fleet landed below Banks' \* house to the westward, and setting fire to some barns, houses, and a quantity of lumber-boards, &c., on the beach, retreated to their ships again.

*August 13.* At day break some skirmishing between the piquets, but no material loss on either side. At 1 P. M. came in some deserters from the Enemy's ships, who say the boat chaced on shore at Hainey's plantation had in her their Commodore and some officers of their fleet, who, having escaped, returned to their ships after lying two days and a night in the woods; that one of the officers (Capt. Ross, of the *Monmouth*) had broke his leg in the woods; and that they were much disconcerted at the loss of the gondola, which was intended to carry over some 18-pounders to the battery on the plantation.

Capt. Mowat also (by his usual diligence) obtained information that a degree of mutiny prevailed in the Enemy's fleet against their Commodore who, notwithstanding the re-

\*The home of Aaron Banks, a soldier of the French and Indian wars, who came from York, Maine, in 1765. He married Mary Perkins of York, who was a sister of John and Daniel Perkins of Bagaduce. He died August 9, 1823, at Penobscot, where he moved after peace was declared. He has no descendants of his name. Banks and his family were detained for upwards of three weeks as prisoners on board the British sloop *North*.

solves of several councils of war and urgent solicitations of the General to make another attempt on the King's ships, had hitherto declined it through fear of losing some ships; but that, in consequence of another council held this morning on the *Warren*, it was determined to force the harbour next tide and take or destroy the men-of-war; that five ships were destined for this service, one of which was the *Warren*; but that the *Putnam*, of 20 guns, was to lead, and that each ship was doubly manned with picked men. This information was confirmed at noon by five of their fleet getting under weigh and coming to an anchor in a line, the *Putnam* being the headmost ship. The marines were now called on board their respective ships, the barricades strengthened, guns double-shotted and every disposition made for the most vigorous defence. The *St. Helena* transport had been brought into the line and fitted out with what guns could be procured, and the crews of the transports (now scuttled and laid on shore to prevent them from falling into the Enemy's hands), turned on board to fight her; and the General had also advanced five pieces of cannon, under cover of an *épaulement*, to salute them as they came in. But at 5 P. M. the appearance of some strange sails in the offing disconcerted the Enemy's plan, and the five ships, getting under weigh again, stood off and on the whole night. Guard-boats watching the motions of the Enemy's fleet, and the ships' companies standing at their quarters until daylight. This night had been fixed upon to storm the north battery with 60 seamen under the command of Lieut. Brooke, supported by Lieut. Caffrac of the 82d, with 50 soldiers; but the Enemy's operations, and the appearance of the strange fleet, prevented the execution of it.

*August 14.* At day-break this morning it was discovered that the Enemy had during the night moved off their cannon, and quitting the heights of Majabigwaduce, silently embarked in

small vessels. At 4 A. M. after firing a shot or two, they also evacuated *Nautilus* island; and leaving their cannon spiked and dismounted, got on board a brig lying to receive them, and made sail with the transports up Penobscot river. The whole fleet now got under weigh, and upon one of the brigs heaving in sight off the harbour's mouth, with various signals aboard, they bore up with all sail after the transports. There now remaining no doubt but the strange fleet was the relief expected, the off-side guns of the *Albany*, *North* and *Nautilus* were got down from the fortress, and being taken on board, the three ships slipped their stern moorings, hove up their bower anchors, and working out of the harbour joined in about the centre of the King's fleet, in pursuit of the flying enemy, who were now crowding with every sail they could set. The *Hunter* and *Hampden*, two of the Enemy's ships, of 20 guns each, attempted to escape through the passage of Long Island,\* but were cut off and taken; the former ran in shore all standing, and was instantly deserted by her crew, who got safe on shore; and the *Raisonable*, Sir George Collier, being the sternmost ship in the fleet, took possession and got her off, and came to an anchor near her. The rest of his Majesty's ships continued in chace of the Enemy until it grew so dark as to render the narrow navigation exceedingly dangerous; and they were obliged to anchor for the night, while the Enemy, having good pilots, ran some miles further up the river. The *Defiance* brig, of 14 guns, ran into an inlet where she could not be pursued, and was set on fire by her crew. During the night the Enemy set fire to several ships and brigs, which blew up with vast explosions.

In short, the harmony and good understanding that sub-

\* Long Island, now the town of Islesborough, is about twelve miles long, contains about six thousand acres and is in Penobscot Bay, four miles from Castine.

sisted amongst the Forces by sea and by land—enabled them to effect almost prodigies; for so ardently did they vie with each other in the general service that it may be truly said not a single Officer, Sailor or Soldier was once seen to shrink from his duty, difficult and hazardous as it was. The flying scout, of 50 men commanded by Lieut. Caffrac of the 82d, in particular distinguished themselves to admiration, marching frequently almost round the peninsula, both by day and by night, and with drum and fife playing the tune called *Yankee*, which greatly dispirited the Enemy, and prevented their small parties from galling our men at the works. In one instance they even drove back to their incampment 300 of the Enemy who had been sent to storm an outwork.

The manoeuvres of the three Sloops of War, under the direction of Capt. Mowat, were moreover such as enabled the King's forces to hold out a close siege of 21 days, against a fleet and army of more than six times their number and strength; insomuch that on the first appearance of the re-inforcement from New York in the offing, the Enemy debarked their troops and sailed with their whole fleet up Penobscot river, where they burnt their shipping and from thence marched to their respective homes; and the loyal inhabitants, who were taken in the time of the siege and cruelly treated on board their ships, had their irons taken off and were set at liberty.\*

Thus did this little Garrison,† with three Sloops of War,

\*To give them a cool airing, as the enemy called it, once a day the irons were knocked off their feet and they were put into a boat alongside the ship, where they remained about an hour, and had the filth of the ship poured upon their heads.

†When the account of an army coming to besiege this place was received, the curtains in some parts of the intended fort were not more than four feet in height; two bastions were but just begun to be built, and the other two were only marked out.

by the unwearied exertions of Soldiers and Seamen whose bravery cannot be too much extolled, under the judicious conduct of Officers whose zeal is hardly to be paralleled, succeed in an enterprise of great importance, against difficulties apparently insurmountable, under circumstances exceedingly critical, and in a manner strongly expressive of their faithful and spirited attachment to the interests of their King and Country.

A LIST of the Enemy's Ships, etc., taken and destroyed in Penobscot River

Ships' Names	Commanders	Guns	No. of Men	Metal Pounders	
Warren .....	Saltonstall .....	32	250	18 and 12	Burnt
Sally .....	Holmes .....	22	200	9 and 6	Burnt
Putnam ....	Waters .....	20	130	9	Burnt
Hector ....	Cairns .....	20	130	9	Burnt
Revenge ....	Hallet .....	20	120	6	Burnt
Monmouth ...	Ross .....	20	100	6	Burnt
Hampden ...	Salter .....	20	130	9 and 6	Taken
Hunter ....	Brown .....	20	130	6	Taken
Vengeance ..	Thomas .....	18	140	9 and 6	Burnt
Black Prince	West.....	18	100	6	Burnt
Sky Rocket..	Burke.....	16	120	6	Burnt

BRIGS

Ships' Name	Commanders	No. of Guns	No. of Men	Metal Pounders	
Hazard .....	Williams .....	18	100	6	Burnt
Active.....		16	100	6	Burnt
Tyrannicide ....	Cathcart.....	14	90	6	Burnt
Defiance .....		14	90	6	Burnt
Diligence .....	Brown.....	14	90	4	Burnt
Pallas .....	Johnstone.....	14	80	4	Burnt
Sloop Providence	Hacker.....	12	50	6	Burnt
With Nine Sail of Transport Vessels .....					Taken
And Ten Sail of Transport and Ordnance ditto .....					Burnt
Total					37

Killed, wounded and missing, of His Majesty's Sea and Land Forces .....	70
Killed, wounded and taken, on the Enemy's Side .....	474

Of the captains of these vessels the Massachusetts records show particulars. The *Sally* is described as the *Charming Sally*, a privateer owned by William Erskine of Boston. Captain Alexander Holmes was afterwards captain of the privateer *Batchelor*.

William Burke commanded the *Skyrocket*, which was a privateer owned by Ebenezer Parsons, of Boston.

James Johnston was the captain of the *Pallas*, privateer, owned by William Erskine and others, of Boston.

Nathan Brown, of Salem, commanded the *Hunter*, a privateer owned by Bartholomew Putnam. Later he had the privateer-ship *Jack*.

John Cathcart, captain of the *Tyrannicide*, afterward had command of the State ship *Tartar* and another of the same name, a Boston privateer.

John Carnes (not Cairns) had the ship *Hector*, a Boston privateer owned by Jonathan Peale, and afterward of the *Montgomery* and *Porus*, both privateers.

Allen (or John Allen) Hallet, of the *Active*, a State vessel, was afterward in command of the *Tartar* and the *Franklin* and *Minerva*, privateers.

Captain Hoysteed Hacker commanded the *Providence* and afterward the privateer ship *Bucanier*.

Nathaniel West was captain of the *Black Prince*, privateer owned by George Williams, of Salem. He afterwards had the *Three Sisters*, owned by Nathaniel Silsbee and Elias Hasket Derby of Salem, and of the *Marquis*.

Daniel Waters was captain of the *General Putnam*, which was owned by Nathaniel Shaw. He had previously commanded the *Lee* and afterwards had the *Friendship*.

## PROCLAMATION

By Brigadier-General FRANCIS MCLEAN and ANDREW BARKLEY, Esq., Commanding detachments of his Majesty's Land and Naval Forces in the River Penobscot.

WHEREAS it is well known that there are in the several Colonies in North America, now in open rebellion, many persons who still retain a sense of their duty, and who are only deterred

from an open profession of it by the fear of becoming objects of the cruel treatment which they have seen exercised on others, by persons who having plunged their country into the horrors and distresses it now labours under, industriously seize every opportunity of gratifying their avaritious and wicked dispositions by the wanton oppression of individuals:

And whereas it hath been represented that the greater part of the inhabitants on the river Penobscot, and the several islands therein, are well affected to his Majesty's person and the ancient constitution under which they formerly flourished, and from the restoration of which they can alone expect relief from the distressed situation they are now in:

Their Excellencies the Commanders in Chief of his Majesty's naval and land forces in North-America, taking the good dispositions of the inhabitants above mentioned (as represented to them) into their consideration, and desirous of encouraging and protecting the persons professing them, and securing them from any molestation on that account, have ordered here the forces under our respective commands for that purpose: We therefore, in obedience to their directions, hereby invite and urgently request the inhabitants on the river Penobscot and the islands therein in general, to be the first to return to that state of good order and government to which the whole must in the end submit, and openly to profess that loyalty and allegiance from which they have been led to swerve by arguments and apprehensions, of the falsehood of which they must have been long ago sensible, as well as of the views of those who first promoted them. We also call on all those whose principles have never been shaken, to embrace the present opportunity of manifesting them without dread or apprehensions, as we hereby assure them of every protection in the power of the forces under our respective commands to bestow. And, to

quiet the apprehensions of any persons who might be deterred from embracing this opportunity by the dread of being punished for any former acts of rebellion which they may have been led to commit, we hereby declare that we will extend our protection, and give every encouragement, to all persons of whatever denomination who shall, within eight days from the date hereof, take the oaths of allegiance and fidelity to his Majesty, before such persons as we shall appoint, either at the headquarters of his Majesty's troops at Majabigwaduce Neck, or at Fort Pownal\*; which oaths of allegiance and fidelity we require all persons whatever to come and take within the required time, and not, by neglecting to give such testimony of their loyalty, give room to look upon them as desirous of continuing in an obstinate and unavailing rebellion, and subject themselves to the treatment such conduct will deserve.

To all persons who by returning to their allegiance shall merit it, we not only promise protection and encouragement, with the relief that shall be in our power to alleviate their present distresses, but we also declare that we will employ the forces under our command to punish all persons whatever who shall attempt in any manner to molest them, either in person or property, on account of their loyalty or conduct toward us; and if forced by their behaviour to punish any men or set of men, on the above-mentioned account, we declare that we will do it in such an exemplary manner as we hope will deter others from obliging us to have recourse to such severe means in future.

And whereas the inhabitants to whom this proclamation is addressed, as well as those in general settled in that part of the country called the Province of Maine, have settled themselves on lands, and cultivated them, without any grant or title by which their possession can be secured to them or their posterity; we therefore declare that we have full power to promise, and

\* See p. 45.

we do hereby promise, that no person whatever who shall take the oaths of allegiance as above required, and give such other testimony of their attachment to the constitution as we, or other officers commanding his Majesty's forces may require, shall be disturbed in their possessions; but that whenever civil government takes place, they shall receive gratuitous grants from his Majesty (who alone has the power of giving them) of all lands they may have actually cultivated and improved.

And whereas the leaders of the present rebellion, in pursuit of the views which first instigated them to foment it, and probably to blind the people with regard to the cause of the severe distress under which they now labour, have industriously propagated a notion that the officers of his Majesty's sea and land forces willingly add to their sufferings: We, therefore, to remove such prejudices and as far as in us lies to alleviate the misery of the inhabitants of the villages and islands along the coast of New England, hereby declare that such of them as behave themselves in a peaceable, orderly manner, shall have full liberty to fish in their ordinary coast fishing craft without any molestation on our part; on the contrary, they shall be protected in it by all vessels and parties under our command.

Given on board his Majesty's ship *Blonde*, in Majabigwaduce river, the 15th of June, 1779.

FRANCIS MCLEAN,  
ANDREW BARKLEY.

### PROCLAMATION

By SOLOMON LOVELL, Esq., Brigadier-General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the State of Massachusetts Bay, and employed on an Expedition against the Army of the King of Great Britain at Penobscot.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to Government that an armament of some sea and land forces belonging to the King of

Great Britain, under the encouragement of divers of inhabitants of these parts, inimicably disposed to the United States of America, have made a descent on Penobscot, and the parts adjacent; and after propagating various false reports of a general insurrection of the Eastern and Northern Indians in their favour, a Proclamation has been issued on the 15th of June last, signed Francis McLean and Andrew Barclay, said to be in behalf and by authority of said King, promising grants of lands which he never owned, and of which he has now forfeited the jurisdiction by an avowed breach of that compact between him and his subjects, whereon said jurisdiction was founded, and terrifying by threatenings which his power in this land is unable to execute, unless his servants have recourse to their wonted methods of midnight slaughter and savage devastation, all designs to induce the free inhabitants of these parts of the State to submit to their power, and to take an oath of allegiance to their King, whereby they must greatly profane the name of God and solemnly entangle themselves in an obligation to give up their cattle, provisions and labour to the will of every officer pretending the authority of said King, and finally to take arms against their brethren whenever called upon; and it appears some persons have been induced out of fear and by the force of compulsion, to take said oath, who may so far be imposed on as to think themselves bound to act in conformity thereto:

I have thought proper to issue this Proclamation, hereby declaring that the allegiance due to the *ancient constitution* obliges to resist to the last extremity the present system of tyranny in the British Government, which has now overset it; that by this mode of government the people have been reduced to a state of nature, and it is utterly unlawful to require any obedience to their forfeited authority; and all acts recognizing such authority are sinful in their nature; no oaths promising it

can be lawful; since if any act be sin in itself, no oath can make it a duty; the very taking of such an oath is a crime, of which every act adhering to it is a repetition with dreadful aggravations.

In all cases where oaths are imposed, and persons compelled to submit to them by threats of immediate destruction which they cannot otherwise avoid, it is manifest that, however obligatory they may be to the conscience of the *compeller*, whose interest and meaning is thereby so solemnly witnessed, it *can have no force on the compelled*, whose interest was known, by the compulsion itself, to be the very reverse of the words in which it is expressed.

At the same time, I do assure the inhabitants of Penobscot and the country adjacent, that if they are found to be so lost to all the virtues of good citizens as to comply with advice of said pretended Proclamation (p. 33) by becoming the first to desert the cause of freedom of virtue and of God, which the whole force of Britain and all its auxiliaries now find themselves unable to overthrow, they must expect also to be the first to experience the just resentment of this injured and betrayed Country, in the condign punishment which their treason deserves. From this punishment their invaders will be very unlike to protect them, as it is now known they are not able to protect themselves in any part of America. And as the protection on which those proclaiming Gentlemen say they have *power* only to *promise*, can be afforded by nothing but the forces which they command, and of these forces by the blessing of God, I doubt not in a very short time to be put in possession; so there is more reason to expect it from the Indian members of the community and treated accordingly, anything nations around, as good part of them are now in my encampment, and several hundreds more on their way speedily to

join me; and I have the best evidences from all the rest, that they steadfastly refused to accept of any presents, sign the papers, or do any the barbarous acts assigned them by our Enemies; and on the contrary hold themselves in readiness, on the shortest notice, to turn out for the defence of any place which these men may attack.

Therefore, as the authority committed to me necessitates my executing my best endeavours to rid this much-abused country, not only of its foreign but also from its domestic enemies, I do, therefore, declare that when, by the blessing of Heaven on the American arms, we shall have brought the forces that have invaded us to the state they deserve, it shall be my care that the laws of this state be duly executed upon such inhabitants thereof as have traitorously abetted or encouraged them in their lawless attempts.

And, that proper discrimination may be made between them and the faithful and liege subjects of the United States, I further declare that all persons within the Eastern country, that have taken the oath prescribed by the Enemy, and shall not within forty-eight hours after receiving notice of this proclamation repair to my camp at Majabigwaduce, with such arms and accoutrements as they now possess, shall be considered as traitors who have voluntarily combined with the Common Enemy in the common ruin; but all such as shall appear at headquarters within said term, and give proper testimony of their determination to continue cordially in allegiance to the United States of America, shall be recognized as good and faithful members of the community and treated accordingly, anything obnoxious in their taking the oath notwithstanding.

Given at the Head-Quarters on the Heights  
of Majabigwaduce, this 29th day of July, Anno

Domini, 1779, and in the Fourth Year of the  
Independence of America.

(Signed) S. LOVELL,  
Brig. Gen.

By Command of the General,  
JOHN MARSTON, Secretary.

Copy of General LOVELL's Letter to Commodore SALTONSTALL; taken with other  
Papers on board the Transport.

*Head Quarters, Majabigwaduce Heights, Aug. 11, 1779.*

SIR,

**I**N this alarming posture of affairs, I am once more obliged to request the most speedy service in your department; and that a moment be no longer delayed to put in execution what I have been given to understand was the determination of your last council. The destruction of the Enemy's ships must be effected at any rate, although it might cost us half our own; but I cannot possibly conceive that danger, or that the attempt will miscarry. I mean not to determine on your mode of attack; but it appears to me so very practicable that any further delay must be infamous; and I have it this moment by a deserter from one of their ships, that the moment you enter the harbour they will destroy them; which will effectually answer our purpose.

The idea of more batteries against them was sufficiently reprobated; and, would the situation of ground admit of such proceeding, it would *now* take up *dangerous time*; and we have already experienced their obstinacy in that respect.

You cannot but be sensible of my ardent desire to co-operate with you; and of this the guard at Westcot's is a sufficient proof, and which I think a hazardous distance from my encampment. My situation is confined; and while the Enemy's ships are safe, the operations of the Army cannot possibly be extended an inch beyond

the present limits; the alternative now remains, to destroy the ships, or raise the siege.

The information of the British ships at the Hook\* (probably sailed before this) is not to be despised; not a moment is to be lost; we must determine instantly, or it may be productive of disgrace, loss of ships and men; as to the troops, their retreat is secure, though I would die to save the necessity of it.

I feel for the honour of America, in an expedition which a nobler exertion had long before this crowned with success; and I have now only to repeat the absolute necessity of undertaking the destruction of the ships, or quitting the place; and with these opinions I shall impatiently wait your answer.

I am,

Sir,

Yours, etc.,

S. LOVELL, Brig. Gen.

*To Commodore Saltonstall.*

#### POSTSCRIPT

**I**NASMUCH as the Country of Penobscot has till lately been but little known or considered by Britons, the Editor has thought proper to give the public the following short Account of it; having of late years travelled eight times through the same, and made himself acquainted with the most respectable persons in each town, and with the minutest circumstances which respect that District.

Penobscot, sometimes called the Territory of Sagadahock, lies in the eastern part of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, having

\* Sandy Hook, New York Harbor. [ED.]

—The "Postscript" was written by Dr. Calef.

the Province of Nova Scotia (viz. Passamaquodie) for its Eastern, the Province of Main (viz. Kennebeck River) its Western, Canada its Northern, and the Ocean its Southern boundary; and is nearly as large as the Kingdom of Ireland. The French were formerly in possession of part of this Country, viz. from Penobscot River eastward: they had a Fort on the Peninsula of Majabigwaduce, commanded by Monsieur Castine, and a great number of French inhabitants settled up Penobscot, and on other rivers, and along the seacoast to Nova Scotia. On the reduction of Louisburg, in the year 1745 Monsieur Castine demolished the Fort; and all the inhabitants of this district broke up, and removed to Canada.

At the end of the last war, viz. in 1763, the General Assembly of Massachusetts Bay granted thirteen Townships, each of six miles square, lying on the east side of Penobscot River, to thirteen companies of Proprietors, who proceeded to lay out the said Townships, and returned plans thereof to the General Assembly, which were approved and accepted. In consequence of this measure about sixty families settled on each Township, and made great improvements of the land. Those settlers employed the then agent for the said province at the Court of Great Britain, to solicit the Royal approbation of those grants; and in the year 1773, as also in the last year (1780) they sent an agent expressly on their own account, for the same purpose, and further to pray that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to sever that District from the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and erect it into a Government under the authority of the Crown; which solicitation has hitherto, however, been without effect.

The inhabitants of this country are in general loyal, except those of the Township of Machias,\* who have at that place a small fort under the direction of Congress, and about 135 Indian war-

\* This township was granted by the General Assembly ten years after the first thirteen Townships were granted.

riors of the Machias tribe, in their interest; all the other tribes of Northern Indians are in the King's peace.

The soil of this Country is good and well adapted to the culture of every sort of English grain, as well as hemp, flax, etc., but is more especially proper for grassing (in which it excels every other part of America) and for breeding cattle, sheep, swine and horses. Its woods abound with moose † and other kinds of deer, beaver and several kinds of game good for food.

A few miles from the sea-coast are large tracts of land, covered with pine trees, suitable for masts of the largest size.‡ Timber for ship-building, staves, boards, and all other sorts of lumber. On the rivers and streams there were more than 200 saw mills when the rebellion broke out, and many more might be erected. The rivers abound with salmon and various other kinds of fish; several of which rivers are navigable 50 or 60 miles for ships of 300 tons, and much further for small craft. There are, on the sea-coast from Falmouth to Passamaquodie, which is about 70 leagues, more than twenty harbours; many of them are very large, with deep water and good bottom, and are not incommoded with ice in the winter season, viz.: Falmouth, Sheepscut, Townsend, George Islands, Penobscot, Algemogin, Bass, Cranberry Island, Frenchman's Bay, Gooldsborough, Machias, Narraguagus,¶ and East Passamaquodie. In each of these harbours ships of the largest size may ride in safety in the most violent winds. In the harbour of

† When full grown the carcass weighs from 600 to 800 lbs.

‡ For this article Britain has hitherto been obliged to the Northern Powers, Russia in particular.

¶ Falmouth consisted of what is now Portland, Westbrook and Falmouth, and the harbor is Portland harbor.

Townsend was what is now Boothbay.

Cranberry Islands lie on the outside of Mount Desert Island.

Narraguagus Bay is at Millbridge.

Majabigwaduce is a large sandy beach; the tide flows from 15 to 18 feet, and a dock-yard may be erected there at a small expence, for the collection of masts, lumber, etc., and to heave down the largest men of war. Near the entrance of the harbour is good fishing ground, where cod, shell and several other kinds of fish are taken in plenty.

In October, 1772, there were in this District, 42 towns and 2638 families,§ who have since greatly increased, at least in the proportion of one-fourth, which is 659 families, making in the whole 3297 families. Reckoning these, five souls to each family (which is a moderate computation) there are now 16,485 souls. To this New Country the Loyalists resort with their families (last summer, particularly, a great number of families were preparing to remove thither) from the New England Provinces, and find an asylum from the tyranny of Congress and their tax-gatherers, as well as daily employment in fishing, lumbering, clearing and preparing land for their subsistence; and there they continue, in full hope and pleasing expectation, that they may soon re-enjoy the liberties and privileges which would be best secured to them by laws, and under a form of government, modelled after the British Constitution; and that they may be covered in their possessions, agreeably to the petition to the Throne, in 1773; which was renewed last year.

Should this District be severed from the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and erected into a Province under the authority of the Crown, and the inhabitants *quieted* in their *possessions*, it would be settled with amazing rapidity; the Royal Navy, West India Islands, and other parts of His Majesty's Dominion, well and plentifully served for centuries to come from this District, with every article above mentioned without being obliged to other Powers for the same; and the profits of the whole would fall into the lap of Great Britain in return for her manufactures. Roads

§ As appears by a list then taken by a respectable person.

would moreover be opened for communication with other His Majesty's Provinces, which might be travelled in a short time by the following routes:

*Distance from Quebec.*

	MILES
To Passadonkeeg, Indian Old Town, on Penobscot River .....	65
Sawedabscook .....	35
Fort Halifax on Kennebeck River .....	19
* Pownalborough .....	33
Falmouth .....	54
Portsmouth .....	53
Boston .....	65
	<hr/>
	324

*Distance from Annapolis, Nova Scotia.*

	MILES
To St. John's, 16 leagues .....	48
Penobscot River .....	55
Fort Halifax .....	19
Boston .....	205
	<hr/>
	327

N. B. From Boston to Fort Halifax is a good Cart Road.

(P. 35) Fort Pownall was built by Governor Thomas Pownall and was completed in July, 1759. It was on Fort Point in what is now Stockton, Maine, at the head of Penobscot Bay, fourteen miles from Belfast. It was dismantled in 1776 by Captain Henry Mowat, and in 1779 the British burned the buildings and leveled the earthworks to make it useless.

\* Pownalborough consisted of what is now Dresden, Alna, Perkins and Wiscasset, Maine, and was the shire town of Lincoln County.

## CAPTAIN HENRY MOWAT'S ACCOUNT

(In the catalogue of a London bookseller, in 1843, appeared for sale a manuscript relating to the services of Capt. Henry Mowat in America. It was disposed of, to whom was unknown. The title was "A relation of the services in which Captain Henry Mowat was engaged in America, from 1759 to the end of the American War in 1783." Search was instituted by Maine historians for the manuscript. Judge Joseph Williamson, of Belfast, Maine, advertised abroad, in 1887, "I will pay five pounds for evidence of the existence of the manuscript." On November 20, 1890, it was received by Hon. James P. Baxter, of Portland, from Edinburgh, and was published in part, with its history, in the *Collections* of the Maine Historical Society, Series II, Vol. 2, page 345. The original manuscript of fifty-nine pages is now in the possession of that society. The following is the part relating to the occupancy of the Penobscot by the British during the Revolution; beginning with the middle of page 7 and ending near the bottom of page 21. Punctuation, spelling and capitalization are as in the original.)

**T**HE *Albany* at last was called to New York in the beginning of 1779—orders had not long before arrived from Britain for taking post in Penobscot Bay, and Capt. Mowat's experience of the New England Coast being well known to Sir Henry Clinton on former occasions, he was proposed by his Excellency approved by Admiral Gambier as the fittest to command the naval part of the Force. The Admiral desiring to know the force necessary for the Service, was answered it should be Superior to any the Enemy at Boston could readily collect on such Emergency. It was accordingly settled it should be so, and that Captain Mowat should have a ship equal to the Importance of the object.

In the meantime the Store of Powder in the Garrison at Halifax being totally exhausted, Captain Mowat received on board the *Albany* and proceeded with an ample Supply, the orders and

Every equipment for the Expedition, being intended to follow: but he had no sooner landed the Powder, than he was ordered by Sir George Collier to the Bay of Fundy, and Sir George repaired soon after to New York where he was left the Senior Officer on the American Station.

On this change taking place, Captain Mowat, from reasons otherwise foreign to this Narrative, Considered it Necessary to urge what he had formerly represented to Admiral Gambier, and he wrote to New York from the Bay of Fundy, that if the *Albany* were to be the leading Ship, it would by no means be safe to trust the Expedition with one of her class, unless a Sufficient force should cruize between it & the enemy, until the post should be established.

This representation appears to have had no effect, for the orders for the *Albany* alone soon after arrived at Halifax, and were delivered by Capt. Gaylor of the *Romulus* to General McLean until the *Albany* should arrive.

Thus, if the *Albany* had happened to lead the Expedition according to the order, the whole must have been intercepted as we shall shortly see, & carried to Boston for a mere Novice might have conceived at once She was not fit to conduct it safely. The Consequences, which must be estimated according to the view & State of affairs at that time in America, Would have been tremendous. It would have been equivalent to a Second Burgoynade before there were time for repairing, or forgetting, the first: an immense Encouragement for the Americans, who were tiring of the length of the war, to exert their remaining resources, for the Opposition to exercise their clamor, and a proportional depression of the Spirits of the Loyalists. To the Southward we had but a slender footing in Georgia against such a disaster, the reinforcements not arrived as yet And the Army there inactive for Security. To the Northward Canada was not so strong as it had been rendered in the Succeeding Year, And Nova Scotia at least, lying con-

tiguous to the territory of Penobscot, would have been overwhelmed, for by this detachment the Garrison of Halifax had been by the one-half reduced. This disposition of the Service must appear the more strange as we know Sir George Collier was by no means ignorant of the rebel force in the New England Ports.

But the dire Event was prevented by a mere accident & that the most fortunate in the World; for the Dispatch, forwarded by General McLean, did not reach the Bay of Fundy where Capt. Mowat was stationed, nor did he in Consequence get round to Halifax, until the latest moment having elapsed the General put the order into the hands of Captain Barclay\* of the *Blonde* Frigate, then Senior officer of the Navy there, who immediately put the *North* & *Nautilus* sloops of war under orders to proceed with himself And they were on the point of sailing when the *Albany* arrived. However this did not alter Captain Barclay's judicious determination. They proceeded, had a long passage As might be expected at the Season, and at last arrived at Penobscot: The Rebel frigates, *Boston* & *Providence*, who were cruizing on the Coast of Nova Scotia westward of Halifax, finding the Convoy Superior to what they expected, did not think proper to attack it.

In a few days after the troops were landed, the *Blonde* departed, leaving Captain Mowat under a copy of Sir George Collier's original orders, with directions for the *North* and *Nautilus* & all the transports to return to Halifax. Now soon the stores were landed for Captain Barclay had brought the Sloops of War there without Sir George Collier's orders, Captain Mowat finding the wretched *Albany* was to be left thus alone, to lie in an open har-

\*Andrew Barklay, the captain of the frigate *Blonde*, called by one who saw her, "a beautiful ship," was a Loyalist from Boston. He was a protestor against the Whigs in 1774. After peace was declared, accompanied by his family of ten persons and by four servants, he left New York for Shelburne, Nova Scotia, where the Crown granted him fifty acres of land, one town and one water lot. He was living there in 1805.

bour distant from every Aid, and in the Jaws of the most powerful of the rebellious Colonies, to co-operate with about 700 troops in a fort not yet begun to be erected, was convinced it would be for the good of His Majesty's Service to use the utmost Latitude, the order would admit of, to postpone the departure of the Ships, from the following view of the Situation of the Armament.

The Bay of the Penobscot is spacious and capable of containing all the Navy in the World. In a corner of it about fourteen leagues distant from the open Sea, near the Embrocure (*sic*) of Penobscot River is the Harbour of Magebigwaduce. This Harbour is formed on the one Side by the Mainland, and along the entire other side of it Stretches the Peninsula of Magebigwaduce. Cross<sup>1</sup>—now Nautilus Island—is at the entrance of the Harbor. The Peninsula of Magebigwaduce is a high Ridge of land at that time much encumbered with wood. To its summit, where the fort was ordered to be erected there is an ascent of more than a quarter of a mile from the nearest shore of the harbour.

The Provisions, Artillery and Engineer Stores and the equipage of the troops, being landed on the Beach, must be carried to the Ground of the fort chiefly by the labor of the men against the ascent, there being only a Couple of small teams to Assist in it. The ground & all the Avenues to it, was to be examined, cleared from wood, and at the same time guarded. Materials were to be collected & prepared, And the defences, as well as every convenience of the fort, were to be reared. Let any one conversant in Matters of this Nature, reflect what a work it was for 700 men, And he will also readily allow, that in the Course of it they could not possibly, whether from fatigue, or in point of Necessary Preparation be in Condition of repelling any powerful attack. That, as appears also

<sup>1</sup> Nautilus or Cross Island, sometimes called Banks' Island, for its owner, is southeast of Castine in Penobscot Bay and was named for the sloop of war *Nautilus*.

from the rebel General Lovel's letter, everything depended on our Men of War being able to prevent the Enemy from entering the Harbour, which was not liable to be commanded or protected by the Guns of the Fort. That the Harbour once forced, a Superior Number of the Enemy might land on the most convenient parts of the Peninsula, cut off the communication of our Troops with that considerable part of the Necessary Stores, which to the last while the fort was erecting, must unavoidably be left on the Beach, force them to retire within the unfinished Breastwork, where Surrounded without cover, Comfort or defence, they could have no alternative but to yield Prisoners of War in a few days, or to risk an action against thrice their number on ground from its Nature more favorable to the Enemy's mode of fighting than for theirs. It is altogether Superfluous to comment any farther on the orders by which a harbour, of this Importance must be left to the sole protection of the *Albany* Sloop, carrying ten Six and Six four pounders.

The *Blonde* Frigate had not been many days departed, when Captain Mowat having taken Measures for procuring the best information from Boston, concluded that the Post would soon be attacked, and he proposed to General McLean to give his concurrence for detaining the *North* & *Nautilus*, as well as the Transports, judging the General's Consent to be eligible, because otherwise he would be liable to Account for acting contrary to the orders left with him.

The General equally confident in the Intelligence, gave his Concurrence, and accordingly in the fifth week from the Arrival of the Royal Armament at Penobscot, the Rebel fleet appeared in the Bay, consisting of eighteen vessels of war as per the margin, \*\* besides Transports having on board all necessary Stores and between two and three thousand Land forces.

At that time a great portion of the stores had not as yet been

\*\* No list attached.

carried up to the fort. Its Scite was lower by several feet, than a piece of ground at the distance of six hundred yards. The Parapet, fronting this higher ground was scarcely four feet high. All the other parts of the Parapet, paralell to the Harbour of Magebagwaduce and in the rear, were not three feet high. The two Bastions to the harbour were quite open. The troops were encamped on the area, which might be about the Space of an Acre, there had been a Shade erected for the Provisions. The Powder was lodged in covered holes dug in the proposed *Glacis*: There was but a Single Gun Mounted, & that a Six Pounder.

The Naval force in Magebagwaduce Harbour were the *Albany*, *North* & *Nautilus*, Sloops of War, Commanded by Captains Mowat, Selby and Farnham, and four Transports.

In this force and State of Preparation, one may easier conceive than describe the anxiety & hopes of all concerned on the appearance of so formidable an Armament.

The enemy came up, and paraded before the entrance of the harbour, in perfect confidence of entering it without difficulty, which would have been the case had the *Albany* been alone, and then everything would have been over at once; but there was such an excellent Disposition made of the Sloops of War & Transports in the entrance of the Harbour, as baffled every attempt of the Enemy to force it for three days—then they prepared to land their troops on a Bluff of the Peninsula without the harbour, where the General could place pickets communicating with the Main body in the fort, to watch & to oppose, the debarkation.

These three or four days of Embarrassment on the part of the rebels gave our troops time to do something more to the Fort, to carry up the most necessary Stores, to mount several guns, and in short to devote every Endeavor to the present Exigency. The Enemy, having failed in their attempts on the harbour, effected at last

a landing on the bluff, and by superior numbers forced the Pickets into the Fort, took possession of the high ground, above mentioned, within six hundred yards thereof & immediately erected their Batteries and Lines.

In this Position both Parties continued firing at one another during the whole Siege. Our Troops, tho' extremely harassed, were daily getting into a better Situation, with the Assistance of the Seamen, and the Requisites which the Men of War furnished, as well as their own Stores. Secure on the Flanks & in the rear while our Ships maintained the Harbour, they had only to exert their chief attention & Efforts on the side fronting the Enemies Lines, which effectually deterred the latter from advancing in that direction.

They had erected Batteries on Nautilus Island, & in the rear of the harbour, all within point blanc shot shot of any position, in which the ships could be placed, but the proper choice of different stations on every emergency eluded their utmost efforts to enter it.

Thus both sides were employed, ashore & afloat, for 21 Days, in a variety of Manouveres, which are in part described in a Journal kept by an officer on shore & published by J. C. Esq.

In the Mean time Intelligence having reached New York, that Penobscot was attacked, Sir George Collier Sailed to its relief, with the *Raisonable* Ship of the Line, *Blonde*, *Virginia*, *Carmilla*, *Galatea*, &c. They were perceived off Penobscot Bay by the rebel look-out vessel in the Evening. In the course of the night they embarked their Troops, &c., and in the Morning early their fleet was seen under Sail; but the wind failing them to get round the upper end of Long Island, they had no alternative but to run up Penobscot River. These Manouvres were a proof that the Strange Ships sailing up the Bay were a relief and the three Sloops of

War being employed from daylight in embarking the part of their Guns that were ashore on the Batteries, &c., &c., were able to join in the center of the King's Ships: during the pursuit one of the rebel vessels struck, after a few shots, to the *Blonde* & *Virginia*: Another ran ashore at the same time some distance below the mouth of the River, and was some time after taken possession of by the *Raisonable*, which brought up the rear: All the rest, with the advantage of good pilots & of a whole flood tide which happened in the night, got such a distance up the River, as affor ded time for destroying them, And the crews made the best of their way to New England, thro' the woods, in the utmost distress.

Thus ended the attack on Penobscot.—It was positively the severest blow received by the American Naval force during the War. The trade to Canada, which was intended, after the expected reduction of the Post of Penobscot, to be intercepted by this very armament, went safe that Season: The New England Provinces did not for the remaining period of the contest recover the loss of Ships, and the Expence of fitting out the Expedition: Every thought of attempting Canada, & Nova Scotia, was thenceforth laid aside, and the trade & Transports from the Banks of Newfoundland along the Coast of Nova Scotia, &c: enjoyed unusual Security.

After all was over, it was natural to be expected, that Sir George Collier would have been Supremely happy to have represented this important Service in its proper colors, and that Capt. Mowat would, according to the Custom of the Service, have been sent home with the Account: But in answer to the Claim, Sir George expressed the utmost regret, that he could not spare a Ship from the Station: assured that if he intended to send an officer to England Capt. Mowat would certainly be the person; that he only meant to transmit the Despatches by New York, in which he pledged his word, as he held it to be no more than his duty, that the

Services of the Sloops of War would be represented in the most honorable Manner to the Admiralty—

On the next day & before there was time to attend to writing the Official Account of the Siege, he put the *Albany* under orders to proceed up Penobscot River to the Rebel Wrecks, observing it would be some time before he would leave the Bay—This done he departed abruptly for New York, and had no sooner gone out to Sea, than the *Greyhound's* Signal was made to part Company, And she proceeded directly to England with his Account.

Her destination had been Kept a Secret from everyone, General McLean excepted, who in his publick Letter Acknowledges having been privately informed. This is the Manner, in which Captain Mowat was prevented Sending an Official Account of the Siege, And, Notwithstanding Sir George Collier having solemnly pledged himself as above, we See his account to the Admiralty confined to the Merit which we will readily allow him of sailing from New York to the relief with a Squadron Which the United Naval force of All America was incompetent to resist even in a Crescent & to a description of the Disposition & destruction of the Rebel Ships, which however could not be discerned by any one from on board the *Raisonable*: The Service of the three Sloops of War during the Siege were totally omitted & their Captains not even named.

When Admiral Arbuthnot's arrival had put an end to Sir George Collier's Command, Captain Mowat hoped some Justice would have been done him for the Service performed at Penobscot, at least so far as the laying a fair representation of it before the Admiralty, but there was not the least notice taken of him, and he was left at Magebigwaduce under a continuation of the distress of seeing also, that every Promotion, made by this Admiral, was without a single exception, of officers Junior to him: Among these an Officer, who had received his first Commission into the *Albany*

when Captain Mowat was appointed to her, was made Post Captain: It is not from any individious (*sic*) Motive this Instance is given on Captain's Mowat's part: None can be more happy in the good fortune of an Officer, with whose great Merit he has had opportunities of being well Acquainted: but it is a Contrast to the glaring Injustice himself has Met with.

---

Henry Mowat was born in Scotland in 1734. He was the son of Capt. Patrick Mowat of H. M. S. *Dolphin*. After an experience of six years he was commissioned as lieutenant of the *Baltimore* in 1756. The certificate of his "passing" in the Admiralty records sets forth "He produceth records kept by himself in the *Chesterfield* and *Ramllis* (Ramillies) (as midshipman) and certificates from Captains Ogle and Hobbs of the *Dilligence*, etc.; he can splice, knot, reef a sail, etc., and is qualified to do the duty of an able seaman and midshipman." In 1762, he was promoted to be a commander and served as such on the *Canceaux* twelve years. It was during this time that he destroyed Falmouth Neck, now Portland. This event occurred October 18, 1775, and for it he was denounced by our forefathers and Washington wrote of his conduct, "I know not how sufficiently to detest it." Mowat was then forty-one years old. He had been captured at Falmouth Neck, the May before, and was released on his promise to return the next morning, which promise he did not keep. His next vessel, the sloop *Albany*, was the flag-ship of the squadron at Penobscot. He served his King forty-four years, about thirty of which were on our coast. On board his ship, the *Assistance*, about five miles from Cape Henry, Va., April 14, 1798, he was stricken with apoplexy, died aged sixty-four years, and was buried in St. John's church yard, at Hampton, Va. He left a son, John Alexander, who entered the navy in 1804.

NATHAN GOOLD.





**RETURN CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT**

RETURN TO the circulation desk of any  
University of California Library

or to the

**NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY**  
Bldg. 400, Richmond Field Station  
University of California  
Richmond, CA 94804-4698

ALL BOOKS MAY BE RECALLED AFTER 7 DAYS

- 2-month loans may be renewed by calling  
(510) 642-6753
- 1-year loans may be recharged by bringing  
books to NRLF
- Renewals and recharges may be made  
4 days prior to due date

**DUE AS STAMPED BELOW**

11-21-2003

NOV 12 2003

276709

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

